Congressional Report Post 7-11-74

Senate Unit Votes Limit On Presidential Staff

The Senate Civil Service Committee unanimously approved a bill that would for the first time set limits on presidential staff levels and the so-called White House "emergency fund."

President Nixon is reported to have had the largest staff of any Chief Executive in history.

The bill would rescind the open-ended feature in the fund provided to the White House for dealing with national security emergencies, restricting it to $1 million annually. Following the Watergate scandals, members of Congress questioned whether some of this money was used for the White House "plumbers."

The bill would allow the President no more than 15 staff aides at the top $42,500 annual salary; up to 25 at $40,000; up to 35 at $36,000, and an unlimited number of consultants paid on a per diem basis at the top $42,500 level.

The vice president could employ one top aide at $42,500 per year, six at $40,000 seven at $36,000, and an unlimited number of per diem consultants at $36,000.

The President would have to report annually to Congress on every White House employee's name salary title and job, and the names and duties of employees detached from other agencies.

A bill setting comparable staff and salary ceilings passed the House June 25.